

>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

Mountains are immersed in a profound process of reorganization linked to their high exposure to different global drivers of change. Their future largely depends on their adaptation capacity; however, as marginal areas isolated from administrative centers, very often are subjected to maladaptation processes. Avoiding maladaptation requires integrating local knowledge, considering the potential feedbacks between local and global processes, and acknowledging that differing values and interests affect adaptation outcomes. To implement these principles in decision-making we have developed a protocol capable to integrate different values existing at different scales, from local to global, using the Pyrenees as a case study. Our protocol first addresses the complex nature of mountains, tackled through the integration of the Social-Ecological System and the Vulnerability conceptual frameworks. Stemming from this first step, the protocol enables to generate a list of adaptation actions. Finally, these actions are put in context of the potential development pathways and mental frameworks coexisting among the local population. This protocol allows to identify which development pathway better fits with local mental frameworks, and facilitates the identification of the specific adaptation actions that may be both a source of conflict and may better resonate among local stakeholders. Our protocol helps to make decisions with information of high quality, and can be used elsewhere. We argue that tools like this one are valuable to integrate complexity without getting lost in the process, and they are particularly valuable in helping decision makers to reduce maladaptation and to identify actions with larger positive impacts.